

Regional Service Center - Application Part II
(School Management and Leadership Center)

Part II of the Application is due by April 15, 2018.

A school management and leadership center [regional service center] is defined as a multiservice agency, established and operated exclusively for the purposes of developing, managing, and providing services or programs to two or more members, pursuant to section 3802, subsection 2. A regional service center may also include associate members pursuant to section 3802, subsection 3. A regional service center is a political subdivision. (20-A M.R.S.A. § 3801(1)(B))

Regional Service Center Name (proposed) : **Greater Sebago Educational Alliance Regional Service Center**

Main Application Contact Information:

Organization Name: **RSU 06/MSAD 06**

Address: **94 Main Street**

City/State/ZIP: **Buxton, ME 04093**

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Proposed Operational Date: **7/1/2018**

The commissioner shall establish an application process under this chapter for the formation of a school management and leadership center [regional service center]. The application must be in a form and contain such information as required by the commissioner, including, but not limited to the following.

Application in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A § 3805:

1.(A) Identify the school administrative units that are applying to form the regional service center.

Brunswick Public Schools, Cape Elizabeth Public Schools, Gorham Public Schools, Portland Public Schools, RSU 05, RSU 06/MSAD 06, RSU 14, RSU 15/MSAD 15, Scarborough Public Schools, South Portland Public Schools, Westbrook Public Schools

1.(B) Describe the specified purposes, functions, programs and services as well as the structure and governance of the regional service center.

The GSEA Regional Service Center shall be governed by a board of directors composed of the Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee of each Member. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for all aspects of the GSEA, including preparing its annual operating budget and establishing, and modifying from time to time the scope of functions, programs, and services provided by the GSEA. Each Director (or designee) shall have one vote and all decisions will be made by consensus. Additional structure and governance components are outlined in the Interlocal Agreement.

The following functions, programs, and services will be available to all members of the GSEA:

A. Joint purchasing of food supplies;

With a combined enrollment of over 32,000 students, representing approximately 18% of all students in the State of Maine, purchasing of food supplies for participating districts will be bid jointly through GSEA allowing for the best pricing for food service departments. The GSEA will operate as a procurer of supplies, not as a distribution facility.

B. Joint professional development offerings;

GSEA districts have a long history of participating in similar professional development offerings. The purpose of this collaboration is to provide targeted professional development to meet GSEA district needs. The expectation is that these offerings will expand to include role-alike groups, in-district course offerings, Speakers, Conferences, and individual districts offering independent professional development open to GSEA members. SAUs may also jointly offer professional development opportunities to member districts. The GSEA will work as a clearinghouse among SAUs for professional development that supports district needs.

The need for developing the next generation of leaders was identified by all GSEA districts as a priority. One focus of the joint professional development offerings will be to develop a leadership pipeline and support system in Southern Maine. GSEA will be working with University of Southern Maine, and the Southern Maine Partnership to develop appropriate offerings initially in the areas of Instructional Coaching and Leadership Development.

C. Joint substitute teacher recruiting, training, and diversity recruitment processes; and

GSEA identified a need to increase substitute numbers, share resources, reduce on-boarding time, and provide eligibility trainings for teacher substitutes. Districts will work together to expand the current Substitute Fair held annually by South Portland, Gorham, Scarborough, and Westbrook. The program will include additional districts, add a Spring Job Fair, use a simplified application for all districts so substitutes can select which district(s) they are interested in working with, reduce onboarding costs for local HR departments and save on advertising costs. Member districts in GSEA have identified a need to develop educators in our communities that match the demographics of our student populations. With 18-20% of our teachers at the top of the longevity scale and nearing retirement, the opportunity to recruit, train and eventually hire individuals to the teaching profession is a priority. GSEA plans to build on the Portland Summer program in conjunction with USM which provided in-house course work for Teacher Education students to study, work, and learn in summer school programs such as ESY, Academic Summer Programs, JumpStart, and Teen Starters.

D. Joint English Language Learners (ELL) intake processes.

Member districts have determined a need to provide better English Language Learner intake evaluation services throughout the region to include Health, Mental Health, Education and Work Force screening for ELL families. Analysis of current processes and capacity indicate the potential for improving the intake process with existing resources.

E. Serving as an incubator for new regional programs and services; and

F. Any other regional functions, programs and services as may be authorized by law and approved by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the full membership of the Board of Directors.

1.(C) Describe how you plan to use any savings resulting from the formation of the regional service center.

While the GSEA does not anticipate major savings will be realized through these collaborative programs and services, the GSEA does believe that the economy of scale will improve the quality of services provided and provide efficiencies and effectiveness of programs.

The GSEA does anticipate reinvesting a portion of any savings to further expand the Greater Sebago Educational Alliance services to additional districts as well as to explore developing additional opportunities for educational programming and efficiencies. Any additional savings beyond the reinvestment will be utilized to improve and/or expand direct educational services, supports and student opportunities at the district level.

1.(D) Attach the proposed Interlocal Agreement (in PDF format) for the regional service center.